

Introduced by Senators Denham and Maldonado
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Salinas)

January 17, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to veterans’ cemeteries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 18, as introduced, Denham. National veterans’ cemetery: Fort Ord.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to build and maintain a national veterans’ cemetery at Fort Ord in Monterey County.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Our liberties are preserved by those willing to
2 make the ultimate sacrifice; and
3 WHEREAS, Our debt to those who serve can never truly be
4 measured or repaid and therefore we are obligated to show our
5 gratitude in our own small way and pray it is received in the
6 humble, thankful, and gracious spirit in which it is offered; and
7 WHEREAS, The actions we take today will determine the fate
8 of our liberties tomorrow, or, as George Washington said, “The
9 willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in
10 any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as
11 to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and
12 appreciated by their nation”; and
13 WHEREAS, One of the greatest expressions of unending
14 gratitude is recognition in perpetuity by being laid to rest in a
15 National Veterans’ Cemetery; and
16 WHEREAS, There are few locations in the United States with
17 the grandeur of the California coastline at Monterey; and

1 WHEREAS, Fort Ord in Monterey County, California also
2 shares a long and honorable history with veterans of the United
3 States of America; and

4 WHEREAS, Local citizens and governments continue to
5 recognize their connection with veterans and have donated land
6 for the purpose of honoring America's veterans; and

7 WHEREAS, The dutifully elected congressional
8 representatives of the people directed the Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs to examine
10 the "unique opportunity" for a cemetery at Fort Ord; and

11 WHEREAS, The secretary and under secretary have rejected
12 the people's authority by not abiding by the spirit of the
13 congressional directive; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans
15 Affairs stated as recently as January 6, 2006, that they are driven
16 by their mission to serve veterans who have answered their last
17 muster call on this earth, that 687,000 veterans will pass this
18 year, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has
19 the money and is excited that it "has the ability to meet the needs
20 of an aging veteran population" and that it recognizes "these
21 cemeteries become national shrines"; and

22 WHEREAS, It is recognized by the State of California that the
23 Fort Ord location in Monterey County contains all tangible and
24 intangible requirements for the making of a national shrine,
25 including a history of defending the United States, long service
26 with veterans, scenic views, and a honored place in the heart of
27 the community, the state, and the nation, even if not in the heart
28 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; now,
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
31 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
32 memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to
33 build and maintain a national veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord in
34 Monterey County, California; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the President of the United States, to all
37 members of the Congress of the United States, to the United
38 States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Under Secretary for

- 1 Memorial Affairs with the United States Veterans Affairs
- 2 Department.

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